(c) Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 73.95 lakhs for payment of ex-gratia to the victims of these ethnic clashes. Government of Manipur have also informed that they have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development for assistance towards rehabilitation of affected persons.

Manipur Merger Agreement

3874. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government are not properly giving attention to implement the Manipur Merger Agreement with Government of India since the time of its signature;

(b) the number of articles that have agreed between Government of India and Manipur Government;

(c) whether Government are giving attention to make suitable provisions for employment of Manipuris in various branches of public services as per Manipur Merger Agreement; and

(d) what kind of encouragement to join Manipuris to the public services, has been arranged by Government of India as per agreement?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Government have fulfilled all its obligations within the Constitutional framework.

(b) The Manipur Merger Agreement has nine Articles.

(c) and (d) Government of Manipur frames its own policy for employment to public services falling within its purview. As regards Central Government services, the people of Manipur are treated on similar terms as those belonging to other States. They also enjoy the benefit of reservations for various categories like SC/ST/OBC etc. In addition, Manipuri language has been included in the Eigth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Plight of Kashmiri Pandits

3875. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Kashmiri Hindus (Pandits) who are driven out by Jammu and Kashmir militants;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government since April, 1998, to repatriate them to Jammu and Kashmir in safe surroundings;

(c) if so, how many of them have gone back; and

(d) what measures have been taken to rehabilitate them in other parts of India?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per available information a total number of 29074 migrant families are registered in Jammu. There are 19,338 Kashmiri migrant families registered in Delhi and 2347 families registered in other parts of the country. The bulk of these migrants are Hindus.

(b) to (d) The State Government have intimated that the issue regarding return of Kashmiri Migrants is on the top agenda of the State Government. They have further intimated on 8th June 1998 that a Sub-Committee of Ministers comprising Revenue Law, Finacne and Tourism has been constituted under orders of the State Cabinet to examine the whole issue and make recommendations. Meanwhile, a Social Interaction Programme was started under which groups of migrants visited their native Districts in the Valley. This programme was launched with a view to enable the migrants to meet the member of the majority community and their old neighbours and interact with them. This measure would prove quite useful so far as confidence building between the migrants and the members of the majority community is concerned.

It is expected that the migrants would return to the Kashmir Valley once the detailed action plan is drawn and implemented by the State Government.